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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/680,604	10/06/2000	Dan Matheson	COCR.01USU1	9577

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EXAMINER

CABRERA, ZOILA E

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2125

DATE MAILED: 12/23/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/680,604

Applicant(s)

MATHESON, DAN

Examiner

Zoila E. Cabrera

Art Unit

2125

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 14 October 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,8-13 and 15-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6,8-13 and 15-19 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Final Rejection

1. The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1-6, 8-13 and 15-19 are pending in the application.

The rejection with respect to claims 1-6, 8-13 and 15-19 is maintained.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. Claims 1, 8 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by **Sebastian et al. (US 5,822,206)**.

Claims 1, 8 and 15 are so broad as to read in **Sebastian et al.** who discloses a computer system for (Col. 17, lines 44-50) for capturing decision-related data to a product design (Col. 5, lines 44-47) comprising:

- a question software interface for capturing a question in a question object that encapsulates text-based information related to a design issue associated with said product design (Col. 16, lines 39-45, i.e., The material properties database 90 supports multiple data representations for any given property. The database 90 supports an **SQL interface to accomplish extensive pattern matching query operations, for example, return all resins with a glass transition temperature greater than 150 C**; Fig. 7, Material selector 72 and material property database 90); an answer software interface for capturing an answer in an answer object that encapsulates text-based information addressing

information encapsulated in a selected question object and that is linked to said selected question object (Col. 5, lines 59-24; Col. 15, lines 34-36; the material selector module can provide its output, *or answer*, in the template notation of the present invention. Please note that any query that is made through the SQL interface returns an answer. In the example given above, the answer would be all resins with glass transition temperature greater than 150 C); and a decision software interface for capturing a decision in a decision object that encapsulates text-based information defining a product requirement in response to information in said selected question object and that is linked to said selected question object (Col. 6, lines 40-44; Col. 17, lines 4-35, i.e., the core design module 76 utilizes the information produced by the material selector module 72 to generate a more feasible design. Please note that the core design module takes into account the material selector module and give suggestions or decisions about the possible options that fulfill the user's requirements).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

3. Claims 2, 4-6, 9, 11-13, 16 and 18-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Sebastian (US 5,822,206)** in view of **Thackston (US 6,295,513)**.

Sebastian discloses the limitations of claims 1, 8 and 15 above but fails to specifically disclose the limitations of claims 2, 4-6, 9, 11-13, 16 and 18-19. However, **Thackston** discloses such limitations as follows:

As for claims 2, 4-6, 9, 11-13, 16 and 18-19, Thackston discloses:

- each of said question object, said answer object, and said decision object is stored in a tool-neutral persistent form (Col. 5, lines 47-51);
- said question interface captures an association of said question object with a decision object (Fig. 19B, element 1926, 1936 or Fig. 23, elements 4320 and 4360);
- said answer interface captures an association of said answer object with a question object (Fig. 23, element 4320, 4360);
- said decision interface captures an association of said decision object with an answer object (Fig. 19B, output of element 1928 is associated with decision element 1936);
- said answer interface captures an association of said answer object with a question object (Fig. 23, element 4320, 4360, query and result).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of **Sebastian** with **Thackston** because it would provide an improved system that maintains engineering data, such as design documents and three dimensional model data, in a common, neutral format, which is accessible by authorized team members through a graphical user interface (**Thackston**, Col. 3, line 64 – Col. 4, lines 4)

4. Claims 3, 10 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over **Sebastian and Thackston** in view of **Twigg (US 2002/0012007 A1)**.

Sebastian and Thackston discloses the limitations of claims 1-2, 8-9 and 15-16 and further **Thackston** discloses the use of separate relational database (Col. 6, lines 50-53). **Sebastian and Thackston** fail to specifically disclose, regarding claims 3, 10 and 17, wherein associations between each of said question object, said answer object, and said decision object are captured using foreign keys. However, **Twigg** discloses an internet based design/drafting system wherein associations between description data, note data and cost data regarding a design take place (Page 3, 0038, lines 13-24 and lines 32-35, "one or more data fields 36, 46 of each design file 22 can be related to the overall design; Fig. 3, foreign keys correspond to Class #, Description, Note, Cost). Therefore, it would have been obvious to a person of the ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of **Sebastian and Thackston** with **Twigg** because it would provide an improved system wherein relationships of a class object are related using foreign keys or a common column such as shown in Fig. 3, Class #, 32-1, 32-2, 32-X; Description 34-1, 34-2, 34-x), in order to communicate ideas regarding a design and/ or features of a design (**Twigg**, Page 1, 0005, lines 1-3).

Response to Arguments

5. Applicant's arguments filed October 14, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. Applicant contends that Sebastian does not teach an answer object that is linked to a selected question object. Examiner disagrees because Sebastian teaches such limitations (Col. 5, lines 59-24; Col. 15, lines 34-36; the material selector module can provide its output, *or answer*, in the template notation of the present invention. Please note that any query that is made through the SQL interface returns an

answer. In the example given above, the answer would be all resins with glass transition temperature greater than 150 C). Applicant further contends that Sebastian does not teach a decision object that is linked to a selected question object. Examiner disagrees because Sebastian teaches such limitations (Col. 6, lines 40-44; Col. 17, lines 4-35, i.e., the core design module 76 utilizes the information produced by the material selector module 72 to generate a more feasible design. Please note that the core design module takes into account the material selector module and give suggestions or decisions about the possible options that fulfill the user's requirements).

Applicant contends that Examiner has not responded to Applicant's previous arguments made in the Amendment mailed April 28, 2005 on page 8 regarding answer objects and decision objects. Examiner again reiterates the same citations, taught by Sebastian, and arguments presented with respect to claims 1, 8 and 15 above regarding answer objects and decision objects as follows:

an answer software interface for capturing an answer in an answer object that encapsulates text-based information addressing information encapsulated in a selected question object and that is linked to said selected question object (Col. 5, lines 59-24; Col. 15, lines 34-36; the material selector module can provide its output, *or answer*, in the template notation of the present invention. Please note that any query that is made through the SQL interface returns an answer. In the example given above, the answer would be all resins with glass transition temperature greater than 150 C); and a decision software interface for capturing a decision in a decision object that encapsulates text-based information defining a product requirement in response to information in said

selected question object and that is linked to said selected question object (Col. 6, lines 40-44; Col. 17, lines 4-35, i.e., the core design module 76 utilizes the information produced by the material selector module 72 to generate a more feasible design. Please note that the core design module takes into account the material selector module and give suggestions or decisions about the possible options that fulfill the user's requirements).

Furthermore, in response to the arguments of April 28, 2005, Page 8, paragraph 2, that "By capturing and functionally relating the objects as recited, it is possible to query product design data to gain an understanding how a particular decision was made. Such an understanding enables the product development knowledge generated by a given product design to be applied to new product design efforts in an efficient manner. See application, page 8, lines 10-21." . Examiner wants to point out that it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., it is possible to query product design data to gain an understanding how a particular decision was made. Such an understanding enables the product development knowledge generated by a given product design to be applied to new product design efforts in an efficient manner) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

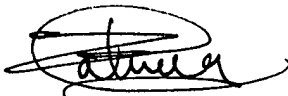
Conclusion

6. **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning communication or earlier communication from the examiner should be directed to Zoila Cabrera, whose telephone number is (571) 272-3738. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F from 8:00 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. EST (every other Friday).

If attempts to reach the examiner by phone fail, the examiner's supervisor, Leo Picard, can be reached on (571) 272-3749. Additionally, the fax phones for Art Unit 2125 are (571) 273-8300. Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application should be directed to the group receptionist at (703) 305-9600.



Zoila Cabrera
Patent Examiner
12/16/05